The total bulk drugs production in the country has been arrived at on the basis of production of the monitored bulk drugs. Even though in the case of indivdiual bulk drugs there may be decrease in production due to obsolesence and other factors, on the whole the production of bulk drugs is showing an upward trend, Monitoring of production is a continuous process and steps have been taken to make the data base as wide and representative as possible.

Development of new variety of rice

4866. SHRI K. R. MALKANI:

SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Rice Reseacch Institute has developed the first-ever variety of super-rice in the World as reported in the Stateman, dated 9-4-1995.

(b) if so, what are the plus/minus points;

(c) whether the new rice variety has been patented; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) A new rice variety named 'Lunashree' has been develpoed which has some of the features of hypothetical ideal variety called 'Super rice'.

Lunishree was released for commercial cultivation in coastal saline areas of Orissa where salinity and water-logging co-exists. It has tolerance to salinity. It is resistant to blast and suited for growing during kharif season. The duration of this variety is 145 days and having long and bold grains. However average yield potential as recorded in multi-locational trials is around 4 t/ha.

(c) Lunishree was developed and released from CRRI in 1992 through 'Central Sub-Committee on Crop Standards and Notification'.

(d) Question does not arise.

Price of wheat for farmers

4867. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the farmers are to be paid more price for their wheat than the support price announced already for the next rabi crop;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof and how much more money is proposed to be given;

(c) whether the traders have reacted to the proposal; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (d) There is no proposal under consideration, at present, to enhance the minimum support price of wheat fixed at Rs. 360 per quintal for the 1994-95 crop to be marketed in 1995-96 season.

Mild earth quake in Orissa

4868. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the tremor and mild earth quake in Orissa;

(b) if so, the damage caused to that State on account of last tremor and mild earth quake; and

(c) the steps taken to extenl assistance to that State for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) According to information received from India Meteorological Department an earth quake of moderate intensity having its magnitude 5.0 on the Richter Scale occurred at